

The fact that BellSouth, Verizon, and Quest already control a majority of the market for provision of DSL/Broadband service is not a valid reason for the FCC to cease regulating Broadband service, as BellSouth's petition claims. It is precisely the opposite.

Without FCC regulation of this market, it is only a question of time before the large phone companies will drive the smaller, independent, local companies out of business -- either by raising the prices they charge the smaller, independent companies for the ability to interconnect (which would have to be passed on to their customers resulting in higher monthly fees, thus making them uncompetitive with the larger companies), or worse by refusing to provide the interconnections at all, driving the independents out of business.

As a consumer of DSL/Broadband, and as a very happy customer for the past 7 years of my local, independent ISP and DSL provider, I want the smaller, independent companies to be able to stay in the market. I am not at all in favor of huge national, and international corporations greedily gobbling up every resource, and then not providing excellent service (no matter how hard they try to spin it to the contrary), and of having no recourse as a consumer when the only players in the field are the large companies, who all end up behaving in the same manner. I prefer to shop locally, and I want to continue to have my DSL/Broadband service provided by a local company.

Please deny BellSouth's petition to cease FCC regulation of this market.